

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE
OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third
Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho is committed to the conservation of greater
sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and its present habitat located
within the state; and

WHEREAS, the state has produced a statewide sage-grouse conservation
plan in support of this commitment; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's Department of Fish and Game and Office of Species Con-
servation possess significant expertise in the management of greater sage-
grouse and its habitat and whose experts have been working extensively in
full cooperation with the federal agencies managing federal lands within the
borders of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act requires the Secretary of the In-
terior to take into account the State of Idaho's efforts to protect greater
sage-grouse prior to the Secretary's determination that the species is en-
dangered or threatened; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the state's conservation plan will produce
scientific data related to disease or predation of the species, the adequacy
of existing regulatory mechanisms, and other natural or manmade factors af-
fecting the species' existence, all of which must be considered by the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service in making a determination whether to list greater
sage-grouse as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act;
and

WHEREAS, categorical exclusions from the National Environmental Policy
Act are necessary to allow the federal land management agencies to remove
Pinyon-Juniper trees that are harmful to greater sage-grouse habitat; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho wishes to continue its collaboration with
other states possessing current habitat for greater sage-grouse; and

WHEREAS, the Congress and the President are to be commended for recog-
nizing the unprecedented collaboration among the various states regarding
greater sage-grouse conservation and the need to continue on-the-ground
conservation and monitoring activities as recognized through the enactment
of Section 122 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act
of 2015; and

WHEREAS, time is needed to continue to implement the state conservation
plan over a period of multiple, consecutive sage-grouse life cycles to de-
termine the efficacy of the plan and the need for modification, if any.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
2 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
3 the Senate concurring therein, urging that Congress should continue to make
4 no funds available for use by the Secretary of the Interior to consider, pre-
5 pare, write, or issue pursuant to Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act
6 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Section 1533) a petition finding or proposed regulation
7 for greater sage-grouse for a period of 10 years through and including fiscal
8 year 2025.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during this period, the State of Idaho will
10 continue to implement its sage-grouse conservation plan, thereby establish-
11 ing and enhancing its efficacy over time.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should by legislation recognize
13 and encourage state primacy in the long-term management of sage-grouse and
14 its habitat to ensure an effective and balanced approach that seeks to re-
15 cover and protect sage-grouse populations while protecting state economic
16 interests, educational funding from state lands, and valid existing rights
17 including private property rights.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
19 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
20 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the
22 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.